

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1082
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08848

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CA, IAEA, TECH, ENRG, MNUC
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977:
NUCLEAR ISSUES

REFS: (A) OTTAWA 6249, (B) BRUSSELS 8036, (C) BRUSSELS
5601, (D) BRUSSELS 6575

1. SUMMARY:

DURING THEIR JULY 25-26 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR EC COMMISSION NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH CANADA ON ADAPTATION OF THE 1959 CANADA/
EURATOM AGREEMENT. THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED, BUT
DEFERRED DECISION ON, THE QUESTION OF EC PARTICIPATION
IN INFCEP. END SUMMARY.

2. EURATOM/CANADA AGREEMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MINISTERS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM EC COMMISSIONER
GUIDO BRUNNER AND COREPER ON THE STATUS OF TALKS WITH
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON ADAPTATION OF THE 1959 AGREE-
MENT. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY REACHED AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINES
FOR BRUNNER'S DISCUSSION IN OTTAWA WITH THE GOC IN
SEPTEMBER. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN PERMREP OFFICIAL

(VAN HOUTTE), THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED ITS VIEW OF THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF CANADIAN INSISTENCE UPON PRIOR CONSENT TO ENRICHMENT BEYOND TWENTY PERCENT OR RE-PROCESSING OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR SUPPLIES TO THE COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EC COULD ACCEPT PRIOR NOTIFICATION DURING A TWO-YEAR PERIOD DATING FROM THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON ADAPTATION OF THE AGREEMENT (THE IDEA BEING THAT THIS INTERIM PERIOD WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE DURATION OF INFCEP). WITH RESPECT TO CANADIAN INSISTENCE ON PRIOR CONSENT TO RETRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY CANADA (WHICH IS ANOTHER PROBLEM BLOCKING AGREEMENT), THE COUNCIL CONFIRMED THAT SUCH CONSENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT ONLY IN THE CASE OF RETRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EC AND ONLY WHEN THE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT CONCERNED ARE OF PURELY CANADIAN ORIGIN. THE PROBLEM REMAINS, IN THIS RESPECT, OF REACHING SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF DETERMINATION OF ORIGIN, WHETHER CANADIAN OR COMMUNITY. THE COMMUNITY MAINTAINS THAT THIS IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR BY A GENERAL EC COMMITMENT ON RETRANSFER POLICY. THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED BRUNNER TO EXPLORE THESE POSSIBILITIES DURING HIS OTTAWA VISIT. VAN HOUTTE DID NOT OFFER ANY CLARIFICATION OF THE REMAINING DIFFICULTY IN SECURING AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA--I.E., THE FRENCH POSITION ON IAEA. WITH CANADA--I.E., THE FRENCH POSITION ON IAEA. CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH CANADA--I.E., THE FRENCH POSITION ON IAEA.
WITH CANADA--I.E., THE FRENCH POSITION ON IAEA.

3. INFCEP:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP, BUT TOOK NO DECISION ON THE FILE, REFERRING IT BACK TO COREPER. THE COUNCIL IS TO DISCUSS THE DOSSIER AGAIN AT ITS SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING. ACCORDING TO VAN HOUTTE, THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING IN THE COUNCIL THAT NOT ENOUGH IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE EVALUATION PROGRAM TO DECIDE ON THE MODALITIES OF EC PARTICIPATION. VAN HOUTTE OBSERVED THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A COUNCIL CONSENSUS THAT, AT A MINIMUM, A SCHEME WHEREBY EC EXPERTS COULD PARTICIPATE ALONGSIDE MEMBER STATE EXPERTS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HINTON

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